



BOROUGH OF LLANIDLOES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.





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BOROUGH OF LLANIDLOES

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Alderman H.N. Meredith

Members - Alderman H.J.B. Watkins (Mayor)
Councillor A.J. Davies
Councillor Mrs. A.M. Shimmin
Councillor E. Williams.
Councillor J.J. Austin.

STAFF -

Medical Officer of Health - Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector - J. LL. Williams, M.B.E., M.R.S.H.
M.A.P.H.I.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN & COUNCILLORS.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions in your Borough for the year 1957, and which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 1/58 (Wales).

STAFF: There were no staff changes in the year under review.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The birth rate for 1957 was 14.59 per 1,000 population compared with 12.45 in 1956.
The rate for urban districts in the County was 15.07 and for the whole County 15.22.

There was 1 still birth being 2.9% of live births, and this compares with none in 1956. In the urban areas of the County, this rate was 4.1% and in the whole County 3.8%.

There was 1 illegitimate birth, being 2.9% of total births compared with none in 1956. This rate in the urban districts was 1.8% and in the whole County 3.24%.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths of infants in the first year of life, compared with a rate of 34 per 1,000 live births in 1956.

The rate for the urban districts was 30 per 1,000 and in the whole County 22 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths

There were 28 deaths from all causes. This gives a rate of 12.02 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.45 in 1956.

The rate in the urban areas was 11.14 and in the whole County 11.82.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1947 - Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act, although I did have the case of one old lady in mind. A Home Help had been provided in this case, but the old lady became so difficult the Home Help refused to go to the house any more, and ultimately the old lady was admitted to Talgarth.

The plight of the elderly in Llanidloes is a problem - as it is everywhere, although in a small town it is a problem which can be overcome, since the townsfolk know their neighbours - a condition which does not exist in large cities. Nevertheless, the elderly lead a lonely existence, especially if they have other afflictions apart from age, e.g. blindness. The Darby and Joan Club has done much to alleviate this loneliness. The Welfare Committee of the County Council has provided a delightful home for the elderly at Dol-llys, but, nevertheless, many of these old people want to stay in their own homes, and if they are physically fit and can receive a few hours help a day, it is only right that they should remain at home. Unfortunately many of the houses occupied by these old folk are poor and sub-standard and a special grant has been made by the Ministry to encourage local Authorities to build one-bedroomed dwellings for old people. Many Authorities have taken advantage of this scheme and some delightful small dwellings are to be seen - part of a Council's housing estate, where the old folk can live among people of all ages - I feel a healthy old person can enjoy the company of children.

Water Supplies.

Water supplies in the borough continue to be satisfactory - samples of chlorinated water being safe from bacteriological aspect. However, complaints of brown staining due to presence of peat in the water are frequently received and it is the Council's intention that the water should be filtered as well as chlorinated.

The distribution mains are reduced in bore due to incrustation and pressures subsequently are too low to maintain a continuous supply to the higher levels of the town.

Sanitation

The sewage farm situated 2 miles north of the town in the rural district's area has been functioning satisfactorily and the sewers in the town have been satisfactorily maintained.

REFUSE COLLECTION

There is a weekly collection and the tip near Cwmbelan is maintained satisfactorily.

HOUSING

The building of 20 houses, the first part of a scheme of 42 houses on the Dolgwenith Site was commenced. They are all slum clearance.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have given consent for work on the erection of new public conveniences to commence, but difficulty has been experienced in selecting a suitable site. In the meantime, money has been spent on the existing conveniences to improve them.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

There is one privately owned slaughterhouse and the meat is inspected regularly.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the town was free from any epidemics.

I should like to express my appreciation to both Mr. J. Ll. Williams, the Public Health Inspector, and to Mr. H.A. Jones the Town Clerk, for their co-operation and kindness to me.

The Public Health Committee is concerned with the health and well-being of the citizens of the Borough and are sincere in their efforts to maintain good health amongst these people.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

VITAL STATISTICS

(Based on the Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate)

	1957	1956
Area in acres	617	617
Population	2,330	2,330
Rateable Value	£18,334	£19,400
Sum represented by penny rate	£ 66.4.7d.	£ 74.13.4d.

LIVE BIRTHS

	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	18	15	33	15	14	29
Illegitimate	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	18	16	34	15	14	29
Birth Rate per 1,000 population						
(a) For Llanidloes		14.59			12.45	
(b) For Urban areas in the County		15.07			14.92	
(c) For Montgomeryshire		15.22			15.0	
For England and Wales		16.1				

STILL BIRTHS

	1957	1956
1 Male Legitimate		None
Still Birth rate - Percentage of live births:		
(a) For Llanidloes	2.9	-
(b) For Urban areas in the County	4.1	2.6
(c) For Montgomeryshire	3.8	1.8
For England and Wales	2.24	

DEATHS

	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All Ages	18	10	28	19	17	36
Death rate per 1,000 population						
(a) For Llanidloes		12.02			15.45	
(b) For Urban areas in County		11.14			12.78	
(c) For Montgomeryshire		11.82			12.19	
For England and Wales		11.5				

INFANT MORTALITY

	1957	1956
Total deaths of Infants under 1 year.	-	1
Rate per 1,000 live births:		
(a) For Llanidloes	-	34
(b) For Urban areas in County	30	26
(c) For Montgomeryshire	22	30
For England and Wales	23	

Age at Death -- All Causes

Age in Years	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0 - 1	-	-	-	1	-	1
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
35 -	-	1	1	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	1	1	2
55 -	2	2	4	1	2	3
65 -	5	1	6	7	2	9
75 -	7	5	12	7	7	14
85 and over	2	1	3	2	5	7
	18	10	28	19	17	36

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	2	3	-	3	3
" " Lung, bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-
" " Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3	3	1	4
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH (Cont)

	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2	4	2	1	3
Coronary disease, angina	4	4	8	3	0	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Heart disease	1	1	2	3	2	5
Other circulatory disease	2	-	2	3	4	7
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	-	-	1	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	2	0	2
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1	-	1	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	-	2	2	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-	-	2	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of War	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	18	10	28	19	17	36

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are notifiable are:-

Scarlet fever	Meningococcal infection
Whooping Cough	Acute pneumonia
Acute poliomyelitis	Small pox
Measles	Acute encephalitis
Diphtheria	Typhoid
Dysentery	Paratyphoid
Food poisoning	

During the year 3 cases of acute pneumonia were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year one case of tuberculosis was put on the register.

This was a new notification of a boy of 12, whose lungs and cervical glands were infected.

During the year, no case was removed from the register, and at the end of the year there were 31 cases of notified tuberculosis living in the Borough.

In the Autumn term vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to children aged 13 attending the Llanidloes High School.

This vaccination is a lengthy procedure. First of all the children are MANTOUX tested, that is, given a small intra-dermal injection of tuberculin. This result is taken after 2 days. Those children who give positive results have at some time had an infection with tuberculosis - maybe so slight that it does not show as a diagnosed case of tuberculosis. It means that because of this previous infection these children have some immunity to the disease and it is not necessary to vaccinate them. Those children who show a tuberculin negative reaction are then vaccinated and 6 weeks later these children are again MANTOUX tested to find if they are now building up an immunity to the disease.

These are the results at the High School, Llanidloes:-

Number Mantoux tested --	57	
Number Mantoux positive -	4	
Number Mantoux negative -	47	(Absent 6)
Number who were vaccinated		
with B.C.G. -	47	
Post B.C.G. Mantoux tested	44	(Absent 3)
Number Mantoux positive -	41	(Absent 3)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

Ambulance. The local Service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee. (Telephone No. LLANIDLOES 381.)

Sitting-Case Car Service. All requests to County Health Offices, Newtown. (Telephone No. NEWTOWN 205.)

Children's Officer. This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act, 1948. The Officer is:-
Mr. W.E. Jones,
County Offices,
Welshpool. (Telephone No. Welshpool 3311)

Children's Officer (cont)

The children's Reception Home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. (Telephone No. Welshpool 3109)

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing. The Borough is served by Sister R.E. Jones, Dudley House, Llanidloes. Her district also covers - Cwmbelan, Llangurig and Old Hall. (Telephone No. Llanidloes 244.)

Home Help Service. Applications for this Service should be made to the Supervisor:-

Mrs. Rhoda Goodwin,
County Health Offices,
Newtown. (Telephone No. Newtown 205.)

Hospitals. Llanidloes is in the Mid-Wales Management Committee Area, based at Aberystwyth. It has 16 beds, 4 of which are for midwifery, and recently a Wing has been built for the use of Chronic Sick patients.

Laboratory Service. The local branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service is at Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth, under the direction of Dr. M.N.V. Sudds. (Telephone No. Aberystwyth 216.)

Maternity and Child Welfare Service. The County Council is responsible for this Service.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held on the second and last Wednesdays at the Assembly Rooms, in the afternoon.

Dental Clinic. Unfortunately, during the year, the County Council lost the services of the second School Dental Officer, and now the County is covered by one School Dentist, and obviously it is impossible for this Service to be comprehensive.

Tuberculosis. This service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board. Dr. G.O. Thomas, the Chest Physician, holds Clinics at the local hospital on the Saturday before the last Tuesday in each month at 10.30 a.m. In the last six months of the year, the Mass Radiography Unit visited the town at 3 weekly intervals. This is an invaluable means of detecting early disease in the lungs - not necessarily tuberculosis, and the whole population should be encouraged to make use of it.

Vaccination. Vaccination against Small Pox is carried out by the local general practitioners.

Protection against Diphthoria and Whooping Cough.

Following a report from the Medical Research Council advising against the use of a combined antigen in immunising against these diseases, it has now become the practice to offer immunisation against whooping cough starting at 3-4 months and necessitating three injections at monthly intervals, and diphtheria immunisation at 9 months - two injections.

Of these two procedures, immunisation against diphtheria is the one to be encouraged.

Protection against Poliomyelitis.

This was continued throughout the year using relatively only small amount of British produced vaccine. Larger numbers of children will be vaccinated when supplies of American and Canadian vaccine become available and the ages at which this will be done will be from 6 months to 15 years.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. Stages 2 and 3 of the scheme of improvements to the water supply prepared by the Consulting Engineers, as amended to conform with the suggested alterations recommended by the Engineering Inspectorate at the Welsh Office, were incorporated into one final stage to be put in hand immediately sanction was obtained from the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Details of the filtration and chemical dosing plant, and of the service reservoir, were asked for by the Ministry before approval could be obtained, and these details were under preparation at the end of the year.

The supply from the reservoirs has been ample for the needs of the Town, but distribution to the extremities to the East of the River Severn has again caused difficulties and extreme shortage of water during the daytime has been experienced.

Samples of treated water frequently obtained have been graded "Excellent."

The annual rainfall was 55.32", two inches above the average for the past eight years.

The average daily consumption of water was 117,000 gallons, giving a consumption of 50 gallons per head per day.

Drainage and sewerage. A very severe thunderstorm in August caused serious flooding in several parts of the town, and caused damage to surface water culverts.

The main sewer in Smithfield Street collapsed due to subsidence caused by a faulty surface water drain connection, and it was necessary to re-lay 18 yards of new piping. This was carried out by direct labour.

Drains and sewers have been regularly flushed and a number of minor blockages which have occurred, immediately cleared.

Public Cleansing. Weekly collection of household and trade refuse has been maintained and the refuse tips at Cefn Mawr and Penpontpren used as required and well maintained.

The number of premises from which refuse was collected has remained the same.

Regular scavenging of the roads has been carried out,

Shops and Stalls. Regular inspection of food premises has been carried out and the standard of cleanliness is generally good.

The number of visits totalled 141.

Dairies. Frequent visits were made to Bryndu Dairy in Brook Street, and the premises were always found clean and well maintained.

Two milk retailers operate within the Borough, one selling Tuberculin Tested and the other Pasteurised Milk.

Schools. The County Schools were visited on 17 occasions.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA FOR NUISANCES.

Inspections made	237
Nuisances found	42
Dirty houses	2
Drains choked	12
Drains defective	9
W.C.s defective	14
Accumulations of refuse	Nil
Overcrowding	2
Informal notices served	11
" " complied with	11
Statutory notices served	1

There are still a number of W.C.s in the Town used by more than one family, and steps have been taken to ensure that each house which becomes vacant is not re-let unless a separate W.C. is provided and the house brought up to the minimum standard laid down by the Council.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Number of factories registered	14
" " workshops registered	10
" " workplaces registered .. .	Nil
" " factory bakehouses	3
" " other bakehouses .. .	1
" " inspections made	82
" " defects or nuisances found .. .	12
" " " " remedied	12

Housing Report.

Difficulty was experienced with the Contractor whose tender was accepted for the first part of the Llangurig Road 5th Section Housing programme in arranging a commencing date, and in July he withdrew his tender.

Negotiations were then commenced with the next two lowest tenderers and eventually a Contract was signed with Messrs D.T. Jones of Welshpool, for the erection of three pairs of two bedroom houses and seven pairs of three bedroom houses, with all necessary site works, access road, sewers and water mains, etc., and work was started in November.

These houses were earmarked for slum clearance only in order to qualify for the Government subsidy.

Sketch plans were prepared by the Council's Architects for developing the remaining land owned by the Council at Garden Suburb, but a decision was deferred in view of the high loan charges which existed.

Markets and Slaughterhouses.

Two markets are owned by the Council and the one slaughterhouse is privately owned.

Improvements were carried out at the Cattle Mart in extending the pedestrian standing adjacent to the sale ring for store cattle, an external urinal and permanent penning for 800 sheep provided.

Both markets are inspected weekly and cleansed after use on each occasion.

The slaughterhouse is visited daily and kept in good order.

CARCASSES INSPECTED .

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number slaughtered	195	Nil	4	2486	297	2982
" inspected	192	Nil	4	2442	292	2930

CONDEMNATIONS.

All diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	12	2	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	28	Nil	Nil	13	3	44
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	14.6	Nil	25.	1.	1.7	2.0

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

